THE EXAMINER.

No. 227 SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1812

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 221.

THE CATHOLIC CLAIMS.

THE large Minorities obtained by the advocates of Catholic Emancipation in both Houses of Parliament, are certainly a great proof of their increasing strength, and a curious instance of what the PRINCE is compelled to do for them in spite of himself. The former professions of his ROYAL HIGHNESS have, in fact, done them a service after all; for in rendering him too uneasy to take any decided part against the Catholics in his own person, they have inevitably left a certain choice of action to a number of persons, who might otherwise have thought themselves bound to act with him; and this circumstance, together with the indignation which the abandonment of those professions has excited, has given him the melancholy opportunity of witnessing the benefits he confers upon the cause without reaping from his assistance an atom of honour or goodwill. What he feels, or whether he feels any thing, at the recollection of those passages of Lord DONOUGHMORE's speech which are in every body's mouth, Heaven only knows; but this we all know,—that if ever there were passages, equally calculated to do honour to the speaker, and to strike a dreadful and withering consciousness to the heart of those whom he denounced, they are to be found in the bold and fervent declamation of the Noble Lord.

Freed then from the unreasoning prejudices of the late Court, and left to itself by the shrinking duplicity of the present, the Catholic question has begun to assume a more promising aspect, because it is, for the first time, regarded upon it's own merits. The Ministers themselves, giving their tone a relaxation, upon which they never would have ventured under their former Master, agree to consider it as a political and not a religious question; and all argument is reduced to the single and only proper consideration, whether the spirit of Catholicism has or has not been so altered by the progressive spirit of the times as to render the concession of it's claims a safe and salutary measure.

Even this point however, clear and simple as it's examination would appear to well-informed and disinterested enquirers, is so obscured and distorted by the vulgar handling of the Anti-Catholics, that they lose sight of it's original bearing, and instead of shewing themselves capable of estimating the spirit of the times, only afford so many melancholy examples of persons who have no share in it's enlargement. According to these Gentlemen, every body has advanced in the spirit of reason and toleration for the last two hundred years, *except* the Catholics; the Lutherans have advanced, the Socinians, Arians, and Arminians have advanced; the Calvinists have advanced; but the Catholics have been at a dead halt ever since the time of Queen MARY; and the proof of this is, that they will not give up a letter of their doctrines! In consequence of this sagacious deduction, we are desired to believe, firstly, that all the spiritual influence which the POPE ever possessed in the most ignorant times, he still possesses, and may find means to exercise;—secondly, that the POPE, being in the hands of BONAPARTE, and about to be replaced perhaps by another of BONAPARTE's creation, has become a mere instrument in the hands of our enemy;—thirdly, that to all intents and purposes, BONAPARTE and the POPE are one and the same person;—and lastly, that on all these accounts, the emancipation of the Catholics would only be letting loose on the State so many suspicious subjects, who at the first nod of this new Emperor PETER would hold themselves bound to renounce their King and Country, and perhaps flog, thumb-screw, rack, burn, and scatter us to the winds, out of pure deference to the customs of their ancestors. It is in vain to answer these enlightened conclusions, by demonstrating, that even in the most ignorant times, the POPE himself was repeatedly involved in wars with the Catholics;—it is in vain to demonstrate, that of late years he has been almost a nonentity, and that his very enslavement by a Conqueror who despises his office shews the alteration of feelings respecting him;—in short, it is in vain to bring forward the living examples of a Catholic People, who, from a very principle of religion, have been fighting against the POPE's master,—a people the most devoted of all others to the papal authority, the last in adhering to Auto-da-fes and Inquisitions, and at this moment denouncing heretics with one hand and embracing them with the other. The reply to all this is, "Look at their dogmas,—look at the articles of their faith,—look at what they refuse to recant; and then tell us whether such opinions are not absurd, monstrous, and unfit to be trusted."

Now, at first sight, and abstractedly considered, this reply appears to be reasonable; but when we come to consider the universal inconsistencies which exist between the theories and practices of mankind, when we take as curious a glance at the dogmas and articles which these gentlemen believe themselves, and above all, when we reflect upon the pertinacity with which people adhere, in these latter times, to outward ordinances and habitual doctrines, without caring an atom for the internal spirit, the objections vanish at once, and we perceive that we might as well refuse to admit a neighbour into our sunshine because he will bring his shadow along with him. The Catholics do not allow of salvation out of the pale of their church;—true,—and the Lutherans do not allow of salvation out of the pale of Christianity. Where is the dif-

ference of this doctrine, in point of a reasonable and humane spirit, except that the Catholics involve their fellow-Christians in reprobation, and the Lutherans involve every body but their fellow-Christians? If a Heathen were to judge of the Lutheran's comparative enlargement of spirit and to hear him complain of being given up for lost by his fellow-Christian, he would tell him he was rightly served for giving up such innumerable multitudes of his fellow-creatures. The truth is, however, that though the Catholics and Lutherans both adjudge an unbelieving fellow-creature to eternal punishment, however charitable and virtuous he may be in his life,—though they are both agreed upon this point when they are put closely to the question and obliged to answer for their respective articles of faith, yet the countless majority of Christians have no more habitual and actual belief in this doctrine than they are sure of what is to happen to-morrow. That they believe it at all, and as far as words are concerned, is a mere matter of education, of voluntary blindness, of habitual subjection of their reason, of want of enquiry or the courage for making enquiry,—in short, of the indolence and interestedness attending all settled opinions; but that they do not believe it at the bottom of their hearts, is as clear as that they never think of the matter, one person out of a thousand or one day out of a million; and this fact must either be demonstrable from their ordinary conduct, or all Christians would have as hard-featured and gloomy characters about them as the worst part of the Methodists. To put a case, for instance. We are not Christians ourselves: we believe in nothing but God and the beauty of virtue; and as we make reason and conscience our guides, we make the good of our fellow-creatures our object. Well;—to-day we dine with a company of Lutherans, to-morrow with another of Calvinists, and next day perhaps with another of Catholics; and in all these companies we find pleasant and intelligent men, who are chatting and laughing with us the whole evening, who are full of benevolence, and who would even be in pain for us if we were to scald our mouths with the soup or pinch our fingers with a pair of nutcrakers:—Yet every one of these men, after shaking us by the hand at parting and wishing us all sorts of comfort,—nay, after fancying that we really deserve them, and being prepared to think ill of any body who should calumniate us, is to go home to his pillow, and, according to the letter of his religion, is to conclude that we shall be tortured with flames and daemons to all eternity. But do we suppose that his heart and apprehensions really believe so, though the lips of his orthodoxy say yes? Not for a moment; and we have this simple and unerring proof to the contrary, that he is as happy as he is benevolent, and can enjoy the society of those with whom he differs;—for he who could really be at his ease in the company of men whom he believed inevitably destined to perdition, would be a monster; indeed it would never become such a person to be happy at all, conscious as he must be that he is continually moving about among a crowd of human beings who are fated to be everlastingly burnt; and this, in fact, is the main reason why those who have a deeper sense than Christians in general of the probability of this doctrine, acquire a gloomy cast both in mind and appearance, and not unfrequently go mad. Here then is an article of faith, which is one of the most general in the whole Christian world,—which our Legislators, if they were called upon to reject, would think themselves bound to maintain as strongly as any Catholic,—and which, after all, is actually and at the bottom of the heart disbelieved by nine hundred and ninety-nine persons out of a thousand. So much is this the case, that nothing is more common than to hear it privately disclaimed by liberal persons of the Establishment, who nevertheless, if called upon in public and compelled, as the Catholics have been, to answer for their doctrines in company with a body or university to which they belong, would think themselves justified and even necessitated to defend it as a part of their general creed. This however is not the only protestant and established doctrine, with the defence of which, on such an occasion, the liberal spirit of modern times would be startled and shocked. Of all the respectable people who go to church on Sundays, and who have been in the habit from their infancy of taking their religion for granted, there are probably not a sufficient number out of ten parishes to fill a single pew, who are acquainted with the thirty-nine articles of their faith. With what emotions would the more rational and humane part of these people contemplate some of the doctrines in that appalling list! With what emotions would they discover, that, according to the tenets which they have been studying to recommend by propriety of conduct and benevolence of heart, THE SUPREME BEING is represented as having chosen from all eternity a certain portion of his creatures to be saved and another of course to be damned, (Art. 17.),—that damnation is certain to all persons, whatever be their lives or principles, who do not or cannot believe in a particular opinion (Art 18.),—that every human creature, because born with the frailties of his nature, "*deserves* God's wrath and damnation (Art. 9.),—that it is impossible for a man who is not a Christian to have even an inclination to virtue (Art. 10.),—and that even if such an inclination be possible, and a man who is no Christian be as virtuous as he can, his good works are not only "not pleasant to God," but absolutely possess "*the nature of sin!*" The later Dignitaries of the Church, and others who are weak enough to be more afraid of innovation than of necessary alteration, have practised an inconceivable number of shifts and refinements to explain away these melancholy absurdities into something like reason; but all their endeavours only prove the uneasiness of a liberal mind at subscribing to them, and the danger of forcing such a mind to resort to the tricks and subtleties of wilful misconstruction. Now supposing, for the sake of argument, that the Catholics and Protestants could change places at

the present moment, or supposing rather that a Protestant body were requesting their rights of a government composed of philosophers, who chose to argue that if the former considered them as being wicked and damnable persons, they might proceed to rebel against their authority, do we conceive that the Protestants would admit any such argument, or that the philosophers would consider themselves justified in holding out against them upon the strength of it? *No*: there might indeed have been some shew of argument in the case during former times, when Protestants put heretics to death in England, or when they were rebelling in Germany,—or when CALVIN burnt his antagonist at the stake; but if none of the present bishops are CRANMERS,—if the Protestants in the progressive spirit of the times are even ashamed of the tone in which Luther was accustomed to rail;—if the Calvinists themselves disclaim all desire of acting like Calvin,—and if notwithstanding all these important and salutary improvements, the Lutherans and Calvinists still adhere to the doctrines that made their predecessors intolerant, vulgar, and inhuman, are the Catholics the only sect who are to be allowed no distinction between their faith and their works,—between doctrine and practice,—between what they maintain as their written law, and what they have long ceased to consider as conduct becoming the times? The merits of the case, it is granted, are not proportionate between Protestant and Catholic, the tenets of the latter being upon the whole more revolting to social reason than those of the former; but still the maintainers of the doctrines above quoted have very little to boast on the score of a literal interpretation; and the least that they ought to do in point of charity, is to interpret as generously for the articles of the Church of Rome as they do for those of the Church of England. It is clear that some of their own establisment, who are the most rigid in faith, are at the same time the most liberal in practice; and if they allow this fact to be of any weight, they are certainly bound not to consider a Catholic orthodoxy as a necessary impediment to a similar spirit. Even Sir SAMUEL ROMILLY the other day, in the House of Commons, seemed to make a merit of never having been in a dissenting chapel; and yet he is one of the warmest advocates of the Catholic claims. But to produce at once and in one person a specimen of all that is maintaining and conceding, rigid and flexible, where need we look beyond a popular preacher of the day—the Reverend SYDNEY SMITH, a wit who abounds in delightful combinations, and is at once unrelentingly orthodox and engagingly tolerant? The lively exertions of this Gentleman's pen in behalf of the Catholics and in contempt of the Medthodists had subjected him, it seems, to a charge of laxity in his faith, which so roused his indignation, that the muscles of his orthodoxy appear to have swelled almost to bursting upon the spot, and he broke out with that overwhelming declaration,—that he not only believed every one of the thirty-nine articles in the gross, but every single iota of every article in particular. If Mr. SMITH were a petitioner for religious right, he would of course rather suffer himself to be carbonadoed, or at least drawn and quartered, than give up the smallest particle of these precious iotas; the King and Ministers would be able to do nothing with him; he would put one hand on the Prayer Book, and another on his left breast, and die sooner than compound:—yet even Mr. SMITH does not think it unbecoming his orthodoxy to take an active part on the side of toleration; and do we suppose that Catholicism cannot boast a variety of SMITHS, who are precisely as orthodox and quite as tolerant?

The truth is, that when such men as the present Ministers set about estimating the spirit of the times, they go plodding round and round the petty walk of their own narrowness, and know no more of the question at large, than a mill-horse does of the two hemispheres. If they did, and above all, if their opponents would take a proper spirit and tell the truth plainly and manfully at once, they would long ago have discovered that not only has the question of Papal influence and of the revival of Catholic intolerance completely gone by, but that all questions whatsoever affecting the angry discussion of creeds and the probability of future religious tyranny have vanished with them from the minds of society in general:—in plain terms, they would have discovered, that so far from their having to fear the predominance of any one sect of Christianity in particular, it is a fact easily ascertainable by general readers and observers, that the Christian faith itself is on the decline and has been so these hundred and fifty years past. It is true, they who have witnessed the progress of Methodism in this country have had their doubts whether some danger was not threatened to the church, and have for that reason been anxious to stand up in defence of a learned and well-tempered establishment; but their fears have been pretty generally settled, we believe, by a close look at the opinions of the well-informed classes, who have evinced of late years an appetite much more delicate than voracious in matters of faith, and who begin to suspect that a system of philosophic morals,—a love of the general good, founded on a well-educated conscience and a trust in the wisdom of DEITY, is a much more useful as well as noble principle of conduct than any which involves a dereliction of reason and a shock to humanity.—This, we verily believe, is the true state of the spirit of the times with regard to the enquiring part of the community, not only in this country, but all over Europe, from Italy to Russia; it is proved to us beyond a doubt by the literature and history of Europe for the last fifty years, by the accounts of travellers, and by the tone of society; and thus a wall is raised among men over which it is impossible that any new overflow of bigotry and intolerance should make head, or that any danger should result from giving a freedom of religious range to all sects and denominations of people. Such is the main reason, why the concession of the Catholic claims would be a measure perfectly safe; and such is the reason also why the refusal of them betrays an equal blindness to policy and ignorance of the times.—

When will mankind discover (for then only will they discover their happiness) that all which is useful, and virtuous, and truly glorious, consists in mutual peace and good conduct, in thinking the best of their God, and doing the best for their fellow-creatures?

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

SWEDEN.

STOCKHOLM, APRIL 20.—Orders have been sent to the coast to give British ships in distress every assistance they may require.

His Royal Majesty's Speech to the Estates of the Kingdom, in the Parliamentary Chamber, on opening the Diet at Orebro, April 20, 1812.

"I have called you together at a moment when great and important occurrences, out of our native country, seem to threaten Europe with new misfortunes. Guarded by her situation from the forced obligation of paying obedience to foreign sway, which possibly might not accord with her own interest, Sweden has every thing to hope from unity, valour, and conduct—every thing to lose if she gives herself up to intestine divisions and conscious fear. It is by the bond of unity between me and you, by my Son's sword, rich in honour, by the valour of our youth in arms, by the powerful will of the Swedish people, that the prosperity of your laws and the honour of your liberties are secured. It is by the high and valuable example of an undisturbed confidence between the King and Subjects; by firm and manly decisions, in the midst of tempestuous times, that the Powers of Europe should be convinced that the independence of Sweden is not solely defended by the seas which surround her coasts. At such a decisive moment for proving the general sentiments, when it may be probable that foreign calculations have been made with intent to destroy my exertions and your's, I ought to endeavour to shake off every thing that might have effect on the freedom of your deliberations. Different causes of great moment confirmed me in the resolution of transferring the Extraordinary Meeting of the Diet, which was to have been holden at Stockholm, to this place. If the situation of doubt and suspense which, about two years since, was the chief occasion of taking a similar step on my side, has now given a greater space for steady order, and that the loyalty and attachment which the respectable inhabitants of Stockholm have at all times, as well as in the before-mentioned circumstances, shewn for their King and Laws, an attachment which, with equal pleasure and truth, I find myself obliged to give the inhabitants of my capital, I nevertheless feel assured, that every unprejudiced man, only by referring to the circumstances of the times, will perceive the reasons that have given cause for removing the seat of the Diet, and find the sole intention to be the security and dispatch of business by the Estates of the Kingdom."—[The Speech then goes on to praise the conduct of the Crown Prince (Bernadotte) during the time of the King's illness, and to point out the wisdom of his administration. It says,]—"This my solemn promise, which contains my fixed determination of going hand in hand with my Son in defiance of hostile threats from without, and possibly of opinions at home, to retain the liberty and independence of this ancient realm, lay you, my good Lords and Swedish men, under a like obligation of contributing willingly and unanimously to the same object."

In a reply of Bernadotte to the Diet, he thanks them for their attachment to him, and adds—

"The present state of Europe, and the sacred obligation of preserving the kingdom from a foreign yoke, have jointly operated on the King's resolution of taking the advice of his people. We will shew Europe that evil intents must lay aside all hopes of causing any intestine divisions, and that you are resolutely determined to oppose every thing which might injure our rights and our laws."

GOTTENBURG, APRIL 24.—The declaration of hostilities by the Russians against France, mentioned in the English Newspapers, has not been received here, nor has any movement of consequence been made by the combined armies; according to the latest accounts, Bonaparte had not joined them, but was soon expected.

APRIL 25.—Orders have been sent from Stockholm to Carlscrona to equip the whole of the fleet. The Swedish cruisers have already sent into Carlshan six French privateers, one of which carried 18 and another 14 guns. The prisoners have been sent to fortified places in the interior. A conspiracy has been discovered at St. Petersburg of an attempt to murder the Emperor; the ringleaders have been arrested.

AMERICA.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 9.—The following is a copy of a Message sent by the President this day to both Houses of Congress, to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:—

"I lay before Congress copies of certain documents which remain in the department of State; they prove, that at a recent period, whilst the United States, notwithstanding the wrongs sustained by them, cease not to observe the laws of peace and neutrality towards Great Britain, and in the midst of amicable professions and negociations on the part of the British Government, by its public Minister here, a secret Agent of that Government was employed in certain States, more especially at the seat of Government, Massachusetts, in fomenting disaffection to the constituted authorities of the nation, and in intriguing with the disaffected, for the purpose of bringing about resistance to the laws, and eventually, in concert with a British force, *destroying the Union*, and forming the Eastern part thereof into a political connection with Great Britain. In addition to the effect which the discovery of such a procedure ought to have on the public councils, it will not fail to render more dear to the hearts of all good Citizens, that happy Union of these States, which, under Divine Providence, is the guarantee of our liberties, their safety, their tranquillity, and their prosperity.

"*March* 9, 1812." "JAMES MADISON."

[Here follow the correspondence of the Earl of Liverpool and Sir James Craig, late Governor of Canada, with Captain John Henry, the secret agent spoken of, and who made the disclosure to the Americans, alledging that the British Government had refused to give him his due reward.—The Message produced considerable sensation in Congress, and will probably strengthen the war party in America.]

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

MANCHESTER, APRIL 27.—Early on Monday last, the market-day at Rochdale, great crowds from the neighbourhood of Oldham, Royton, Heywood, and places adjacent, flocked in for the avowed purpose of lowering the prices of provisions, it having been previously intimated by evil-disposed persons that such an illegal act would then be effected. The parties placed themselves in groups of about fifty or sixty, in different parts of the town, and each group endeavoured to collect around them the inhabitants of the town and country, by using inflammatory language; but, much to the credit of the latter, few, if any, seemed disposed to join them. The military being directly called out; and after the Riot Act had been read by Mr. Horton, the rioters were soon dispersed, without any other damage being done, and about eleven o'clock good order was restored. A large factory, at Westhoughton, near Bolton, was burnt down on Friday, by about fifty incendiaries, but no material mischief has been done in the town. Several suspected persons are apprehended, and all was quiet at the date of our advices.

CARLISLE, APRIL 25.—On Tuesday a meeting of the Magistrates and neighbouring Gentlemen was held in the Town-hall,

which was also crowded with the town's people, among whom were several of the operative weavers. After a number of inhabitants had been sworn in Special Constables for the protection of the place, Colonel Howard and Mr. Christian addressed the people. Amongst other things advanced, they stated, that from the overstocked state of the markets, and the dulness of manufacturing sales, an immediate advance of wages was impracticable—that though the sufferings of the poor were great, yet in no country were there such excellent laws for their relief—and that if the labouring mechanic found it impossible to support his family he ought to seek parochial relief.—Some of the weavers, in reply, stated, that in consequence of the very low price of labour, they were compelled to perform twice the former quantity of work, and thus nearly double the quantity of goods was manufactured by the same number of hands, as otherwise would have been, had wages been higher—that to an independent mind, the application for parochial assistance was at all times grievous; but more particularly so now; as in such case, they would be obliged to part with their children (and those, perhaps, at a very tender age,) who, being bound out as parish apprentices, would be removed from the controul and superintendance which every parent, whose mind is in the least impressed with the awful responsibility of such a station, wishes to have over his children; and sooner than be severed from them, they would endure any hardships—that they had previously presented a Petition to the Magistrates for an advance of wages, praying to be heard on oath respecting the sufferings they were enduring; and even this last had been refused—that several of the City Magistrates being manufacturers, they considered them unfit to judge in their case—and that, though promises of an advance of wages had, on a recent occurrence, been held out to them, these promises were no longer regarded. The Meeting broke up without any thing having been determined. Very soon after, a Deputation from the Weavers waited on Mr. Christian with the Petition they had formerly presented to the City Magistrates, in which were given abstracts from two Acts of Parliament, asserting the power of the Magistrates to regulate the price of manual labour, according to the price of provisions.—Mr. Christian promised them, that so soon as it was possible, his father, Mr. Curwen, who is now attending his parliamentary duty, would hold a Meeting of the County Magistrates, when their Petition should be duly considered; and if any thing could be done to ameliorate their condition, they might rest assured it should not be neglected. Mr. Christian afterwards communicated to the Magistrates the particulars of what had been promised, which met with their cordial approbation.

The *Luddites* at Nottingham, it is said, have relinquished their system of frame-breaking only to commit acts of much greater atrocity. On Monday night about 11 o'clock, Mr. Trentham, of the house of Trentham, Tierney, and Morton, in the weaving trade, was way-laid on his return home by two ruffians. Just as he was about to step up to his door, one of them placed himself before him, and presenting a pistol, shot him through the left breast: the assassins then made their escape. The report of fire arms having brought the neighbours to the spot, surgical assistance was immediately procured, and the ball was extracted from the back, a little below the left shoulder. Mr. Trentham being 63 years of age, little hope is entertained of his recovery. The Corporation of Nottingham have offered a reward of 500*l.* for the discovery of the villains.

The person known by the name of *King Ludd* is taken and committed to Chester Gaol. His name is Walker; he was a collier, marched before the deluded mob in a large cocked hat, and was distinguished by the appellation of *General Ludd*. That poverty or want did not impel him to the depredations with which he is charged, is evident from this circumstance, that six guineas were found upon his person, when he was received at our Castle on Sunday last.—(*Chester Courant.*)

On Tuesday night, between the hours of ten and eleven o'clock, the noble mansion of Lord Montague, in Ditton Park, near Windsor, was discovered to be on fire. The family had just retired to bed, and, before they could well extricate themselves, the whole of the house was in flames, and in less than an hour was entirely burnt to the ground. Fortunately no lives were lost, but the whole of the family plate and jewels, together with the valuable furniture and paintings, were entirely consumed. The fire was occasioned by the bursting a flue which projected from a patent stove. The flue burst in the room adjoining that in which Lord and Lady Montague slept, the furniture of which was nearly consumed before they discovered the danger they were in. His Lordship immediately gave the alarm, and on the door being opened the flames burst forth with such violence, that it was with the utmost difficulty the family escaped. His Lordship and family retired to an adjoining farm house until they obtained carriages to convey them to Windsor.

The wife of a respectable farmer, at a Village in the neighbourhood of Liverpool, died a few days ago, under melancholy circumstances. About two years ago, having had a quarrel with a female servant, the young woman, after leaving the house, propagated a report, that an improper connection had for some time subsisted between her late mistress and a man in the neighbourhood. This rumour reached the ears of the husband, who took it so much to heart that he quitted his home, and never returned till a few weeks since. His wife was so effected by this desertion, and the cause of it, that she fell into a decline, and on her husband's return was past recovery. She earnestly solicited an interview, which having obtained, she assured him on the word of a dying person, that she was entirely innocent. He believed her, and a reconciliation took place, but two late, as she died a few days afterwards. The young woman being threatened with a prosecution, confessed her guilt, and attested the innocence of her mistress, and has in consequence been excommunicated in the neighbouring churches.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, April 27.

EX-OFFICIO INFORMATIONS.

Lord HOLLAND gave notice of a motion respecting Ex-Officio Informations, the object of which, he said, was to regulate the enormous and extraordinary power assumed by the Attorney-General.

THANKS TO EARL WELLINGTON.

On the motion of the Earl of LIVERPOOL, the Thanks of the House were voted unanimously to Earl Wellington, and those divisions of his Army which were concerned, for the capture of Badajoz.

Tuesday, April 28.

Several Petitions were presented against the India Monopoly.

CHARGE MADE BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

Lord HOLLAND, alluding to the Charge contained in the Message of the American Government, trusted that an official contradiction would be given to it.

Lord LIVERPOOL disclaimed, both for himself and those connected with the Government, that any act of theirs had ever had for its object the separation of any one part of the dominions of the United States from the other. As to any Agent being employed by Sir J. Craig, it was without the knowledge of Government; but he was convinced that that respectable person only required such information as was necessary for the security of that part of his Majesty's Dominions which he governed.

After some further conversation, Lord HOLLAND gave notice of a motion on the subject.

DISSENTERS.

Lord HOLLAND presented a Petition from certain Protestant Dissenters in London and Westminster, praying for the repeal of *all* penalties imposed on the ground of their religious tenets.—and Lord STANHOPE gave notice that he should shortly introduce a Bill for the purpose of carrying the prayer of this admirable Petition into effect.

The Gold Coin Bill, after considerable opposition by Lord KING and others, was read.—Adjourned.

Friday, May 1.

Lord HOLLAND,—understanding that his motion for the production of Papers relative to the Charge made by the American Government would be opposed,—gave notice that he should bring it forward on Tuesday next.

A motion made by Lord LAUDERDALE, for a Committee to inquire into the present state of the Metallic Currency, the state of Paper Issues, the Bank, &c. was negatived without a division.—The Gold Coin Bill was then forwarded, and the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, April 27.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

Gen. GASCOYNE presented a Petition from Liverpool signed by 6,500 persons, which stated that the trade of Liverpool had rapidly declined; that persons in all the various trades connected with ship-building were reduced to unexampled distress; that public subscriptions had been made for the weekly relief of 16,000 persons; and that one-sixth of the whole population were in want of charitable assistance; while the want of employment was greatly aggravated by the rapid rise in the price of provisions—two circumstances which must produce the most fatal consequences, if not speedily remedied. That the petitioners, in a great measure, ascribed their distresses to those war-measures of Ministers, the Orders in Council, which had shut the Ports of America against this Country, and rendered the supply of grain from America difficult and precarious; and, finally, they alluded to the insensibility with which it appeared that Ministers had resolved to treat the representations from the Manufacturers.

Mr. ROSE said, that he felt it incumbent on him to give the utmost positive contradiction to one paragraph in the Petition, which referred immediately to himself, and which was founded on the grossest misrepresentation. It referred to a meeting between him and a Committee of Gentleman from Birmingham, at which his Right Hon. Friend (Mr. Perceval) was present, and the Member for the county of Warwick. Instead of the use of any language which could lead the gentlemen to think that Ministers were insensible to the distresses represented to them, the whole of the conversation shewed that Government gave full credit to the statement made; and he (Mr. Rose) expressly said, that the iron manufactories of Birmingham were peculiarly injured by the existing obstruction of trade with the United States; and he deeply lamented that nothing could be done for their relief. He denied, in the most positive manner, that any thing passed which could be construed into an insensibility on his part, and he appealed to any Member that heard him, whether, throughout his public life, his conduct had not been governed by an extreme anxiety, if possible, to alleviate distresses whenever they were represented to him?

Mr. TIERNEY said, that the question was not, whether the Right Hon. Gent. was insensible to the miseries presented to his view, but whether he had employed the unfortunate expression alluded to. He did not understand that the fact was denied that he (Mr. Rose) had said, *that the two countries were in the situation of two men whose heads were in a bucket of water; and the struggle was, which of the two could remain longest in that situation without suffocation.*

Mr. ROSE.—I assert again that I have no recollection of having used such an expression, and I am certain that it was not addressed to any of the Gentlemen who waited upon me. I do not undertake to deny it positively; it might have been said by me.—(*Hear, hear!*)—All I can undertake to state positively is, that no such phrase was used by me to the Deputation; but whether I said it to any other individual, I will not pretend to determine. I deny too that, if I used it, it proceeded from any want of feeling on my part for the distresses complained of.

Lord STANLEY and Mr. WARD severally observed, there could be no doubt the Right Hon. Gentleman had used such language, as they had heard it repeated by Gentlemen who were present.—The Petition was then ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. BROUGHAM said, he held in his hand another Petition from a number of inhabitants of Liverpool. The memorial of the present Petitioners was not so much against the Orders in Council, as applicable to the expressions which they had heard ascribed to the Right Hon. Gentlemen opposite—(*A laugh*);—and which, however ridiculous they might appear to some Gentlemen, were yet calculated to produce any other sensations but those of levity and laughter in the minds of those to whom they were addressed—(*Hear.*)—The Petitioners, feeling the multiplied distresses of their situation, had heard with regret and astonishment the figurative language of the Right Hon. Gentleman; from which they drew, at least, this conclusion, that the commercial measures of Ministers were not to be relinquished in the smallest degree. The Right Hon. Gentleman had disclaimed his having treated the Deputation with any thing like levity; and he (Mr. B.) fully believed him, for he was convinced that neither the Right Hon. Gentleman, nor the Chancellor of the Exchequer, nor the Hon. Gentleman (not now in his place) who might be considered as father of the Orders in Council, had now in their minds any feelings of levity or ridicule on this subject, but rather those of a very contrary description. The object of the present Petitioners however, was simply to express, not that the expressions of the Right Hon. Gentleman conveyed insult or insensibility, but merely that they excited in their minds the most melancholy apprehensions, and destroyed all hope of any modification of the Orders in Council. They had imagined, that when so many memorials had been presented to Ministers, some modification, at least, of those measures would have been made; but now, instead of these expectations being gratified, they were to understand that this country was finally committed to a contest with the enemy, which of them should bear privations the longest. The Petitioners also proceeded to observe with pain and sorrow that many persons in this country were possessed of *sinecures* and *pensions* to a large amount,—men who had fattened on the war, which had reduced them to distress. They contrast the situation of those pensioners with their own deplorable condition, and pray that these sinecures and pensions may be abolished altogether, and their produce applied to carrying on the war. This sort of language might be called indelicate, but then the House should observe, that they were dealing with hungry men, who were very little removed from a starving situation. But whatever might be thought of some parts of this Petition, there was one conclusion which could not fail to strike every man, namely, that the number of the Petitions which the House had received afforded a melancholy proof of the extent of the distresses, and the pressure under which the manufacturing and commercial interests laboured. Some of them were against the East Indian Monopoly; others against the Orders in Council; and a third class, like the present, against the Orders, and also against Sinecure Places and Pensions. From all this he concluded, that the pressure on the various parts of the country was great and almost intolerable. It was his opinion, however, that the Petitioners would derive at least the most speedy relief from laying the axe to the commercial decrees of Ministers.

Mr. PERCEVAL said, that as to the expressions ascribed to his Right Hon. Friend, he had not the least recollection of any such being used, though he was present at the conversation with the Deputies from Birmingham. Even if they had been used, he was certain that they proceeded from no feelings of insensibility, nor were meant as an insult. But it was easy for persons to avail themselves of them, so as to make a mischievous impression on the minds of those misled people who were against machinery of all descriptions; and who, by setting fire to manufactories and private houses, were indeed laying the axe to the root of all the prosperity of the country. He deprecated, therefore, the employment of sentiments of this description, as tending to encourage feelings which might be productive of irreparable mischief.

The Petition was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

COUNTRY TOKENS.

Mr. HUSKISSON asked, whether the Right Hon. the Chan-

cellor of the Exchequer intended to propose any measure for repressing the circulation of Local Tokens, which were now become too prevalent in the country?

Mr. PERCEVAL replied, that he intended to submit a measure for checking the circulation.

THANKS TO LORD WELLINGTON.

Mr. PERCEVAL moved, "That the Thanks of this House be given to General the Earl of Wellington, for the great ability and military skill manifested by him at the recent siege of Badajoz, by which that important fortress was wrested from the possession of the enemy."—He prefaced the motion with an eulogy on Lord Wellington, and remarked, that "though it was impossible to predict what would be the result of this success, yet there was every reason to believe that the British movement towards Badajoz, attracting the notice of Marshal Soult, gave to the Spaniards in the South of Spain the means of approaching Seville, and there can be little doubt but to this circumstance General Ballasteros is indebted for the opportunity of marching into Seville, in consequence of the destitute state of defence into which it necessarily fell.—I repeat, Sir, that it is impossible to anticipate the consequences of all these proceedings, but I feel justified in auguring most favourably from them, and in cherishing the expectation that they will be productive in the South of Spain of events in the highest degree auspicious to the common cause."—(*Hear, hear!*)

The motion was agreed to unanimously; as was also a vote of Thanks to Lieut.-Gen. Picton, Major-Gen. Walker, Major-Gen. Kempt, Major-Gen. Leith, Major-Gen. Colville, and the several other Generals serving under Lord Wellington at the taking of Badajoz. Also to the Officers belonging to the Royal Engineers and Portuguese Artillery. Also to the Officers of the British and Portuguese Corps, and to the Non commissioned Officers and Soldiers of the Army under Lord Wellington, for the zeal, bravery, and humanity displayed by them.—On this subject, Mr. Perceval said, he could not help taking notice of one circumstance which had taken place, as well as the small number of killed and wounded of the enemy, and the great number of prisoners. He confessed it did appear to him a distinguished circumstance, in proof of the humanity as well as bravery of our Army, that after so bloody and obstinate a resistance, so small a number of the enemy should be killed, while upwards of four thousand prisoners were taken—(*Hear, hear!*)—Adjourned.

Tuesday, April 28.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

Lord STANLEY, after some prefatory observations, moved; "That the different Petitions from Birmingham, &c. &c. &c. against the Orders in Council, be referred to the consideration of a Committee of the whole House."

Mr. ROSE entered upon various statements to prove the necessity and justice of the system: he concluded by lamenting that the people had been led to believe that all their distresses grew out of the Orders in Council; and that those repealed, all would be well. He should much deplore their repeal, if such an event were to take place; but thinking some enquiry desirable to satisfy the public of their necessity and utility, he should not object to the motion of the Noble Lord.

After some debate, the motion was agreed to, and the Committee are to adjourn from day to day, in order to get the evidence before the House with the greatest possible expedition.

AMERICA.

Mr. WHITBREAD rose to put a question to his Majesty's Ministers, with respect to the Documents alluded to in the Message of the President of America. He particularly wished to know whether that Letter, stated to be from Sir James Craig to Mr. Henry, was genuine, in which the latter was invited "*to go to Boston, to find out how the minds of the People were then affected, and whether they would be inclined to break the Union.*"

Lord CASTLEREAGH said, that he should give all the satisfaction in his power, and felt really obliged to the Hon. Gentleman for giving him this opportunity. He conceived that this accusation had been unfairly brought by the American Government. As to the disposition imputed to the British Government of wishing to break the Union of the American States, he would, on the part of all those who were then in office, as well as those who now are in office, distinctly, and in the most peremptory manner, disclaim any such disposition, or having ever acted upon any such principle. It did appear that an agent of the name of Henry was employed by Sir James Craig, but this was done without the knowledge or privity of the British Government. The first intimation that Government ever had of such an agent having been employed, also mentioned that he had been afterwards recalled. If Sir James Craig had thought proper to employ such an agent, it was at a season that he expected an immediate attack upon that colony of which he had the military command; but the moment the apprehensions of an immediate war with America and an attack upon Canada had subsided, he lost no time in recalling this agent.

Mr. WHITBREAD declared himself not satisfied; and asked, whether there was any objection to granting the Correspondence? To which Lord CASTLEREAGH replied, that if he wished to make such a motion, he ought to give notice.

Mr. PONSONBY put a question about a letter signed *Harman Ryland*, which stated, that this agent had a cypher given him, and authority to communicate between the Governor of Canada and the Federalists.

Lord CASTLEREAGH said, that they had searched for this letter, from seeing it in a newspaper, and could find no traces of it.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, April 29.

The Charitable Donations Bill was passed.—The House went into a Committee on the Orders in Council, when Evidence was heard at the Bar till the House adjourned.

Thursday, April 30.

The House was again occupied in a Committee on the Orders in Council. Many Gentlemen from Birmingham were examined.—Adjourned.

Friday, May 1.

NEW BARRACKS.

Mr. FREMANTLE urged his former objections against devoting 90,000*l.* for the erection of Barracks in Liverpool, Bristol, and Marybone Park; and moved that the Report be considered this day six months.

Mr. J. SMITH knew something of the scandalous jobs of barrack-building. The expence proposed for the Marybone-barracks exceeded every thing he had ever heard of. There was no end to such extravagance. The French Revolution was caused by the extravagance of the higher orders. They only were the friends of the country who enforced economy—(*Hear, hear!*)—The country was in the situation of a private man who was afraid to look into his affairs. The best chance of procuring peace was to shew to the enemy that we were able to go on with the war; but this could only be done by a rigid economy. He should vote for the motion.

Mr. WROTTESLY was hostile to the barrack system altogether: he would rather vote the money to the distressed manufacturers.

Mr. WHARTON contended that the expense was necessary, though great.

Mr. BANKES thought the present time a very improper one for such erections.

Mr. CREEVEY said, that Mary-le-bone Park, though denominated Crown Land, was really public property. An estimate had been made of it's value, amounting to 200,000*l.* a year. Instead, however, of using it for the public advantage, the law had been violated to divert it from national use. Thus by building barracks upon the land, the public would not only lose 200,000*l.* a year, but would have to pay 140,000*l.* A canal too was intended, to be called the Regent's Canal, which Lord Glenbervie had given himself the power of making,—(*Hear, hear!*)—with a benefit of 11 per cent. for his money. He disapproved of thus leaving the Crown Lands (public property) at the disposal of my Lord Glenbervie.

Colonel Wood contended, that the barracks were absolutely necessary for the public service.

Sir F. BURDETT was unwilling to say much on such a question, well knowing that the Right Hon. Secretary's arguments *must* convince the majority of that House. The measure was more obnoxious as a violation of the rights of the subject, than as a matter of expense. It was now openly avowed, that the army, paid by the people, was to be used to subjugate the people. (*Loud cries of hear, hear!*) They might say Hear, hear! but was it not the fact?—As to the time, all times were improper for such measures. The military government of Bonaparte was often talked of; but was not the military now called in to silence the complaints of the people?—(*Loud clamours.*) Were not soldiers employed every hour, and had they not committed murder on the people?—[Here Gen. MANNERS called Sir Francis to order, on the ground that he had no right to throw a slur on the army.]—Sir Francis contended that he was not out of order. They might take down his words. Government had no right to use the military as they had done: the Riot Act gave no such power. The Ministers had no reliance on the people; and they may advise the Prince to have recourse to the army, and be destroyed, as other Princes had been. It was an army, raised by Parliament, that brought Charles the First to the block. An army restored Charles the Second, who was advised to disband it, as the same force that placed him on the throne might deprive him of it. Queen Elibeth, when asked where her guards were, pointed to the people as her best security.—Ministers were not justified in their Military executions. The Sub Sheriffs and Constables were alone empowered to act. He solemnly protested against the system.

Mr. PERCEVAL observed, that the Hon. Baronet wished to protect those people, who were not allowed to plunder the country. Was such language proper, at a time when there existed, in various parts of the country, a madness little short of rebellion? (*Hear, hear!*) Was this a time to tell the country that the Government were meditating the subversion of their liberties? The Hon. Baronet would perhaps have told the same story some months ago, when Piccadilly was a scene of tumult. He does not like the employment of troops in London. (*Hear, hear!*) But Parliament authorized the use of such force; and he would appeal to the Hon. Baronet's favourite tribunal,—the Trial by Jury,—to bear him out in the fact. (*Loud cheering from the Treasury bench.*) When the multitude set the laws at defiance, was it not necessary to call in the military?—The good sense, however, of the people, would consider the language of the Hon. Baronet only as declamatory nonsense; or, if sense, as it was calculated to do infinite mischief among a certain class, would be upon their guard.—Mr. P. concluded by defending the grant.

Mr. HUSKISSON opposed it, but disapproved the opinions of the Hon. Baronet;—as did Mr. BARHAM, who said he should have voted for the amendment, but for the "mischievous speech" of Sir F. Burdett.

On a division, the amendment was negatived by a majority of only 23—there being 112 for it, and 135 against it. The original motion was then carried.

The Committee on the Orders in Council was postponed till Monday, and the House adjourned.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, April 28th.

Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Pellew has transmitted a letter from Capt. Sir Peter Parker, of the Menelaus, giving an account of the boats of that ship having, under the direction of Lieut. Mainwaring, captured, on the 29th of February, near the bay of Frejus, a new French brig of war, called the St. Joseph, pierced for 16 guns, but none mounted; on her first voyage from Genoa to Toulon, laden with naval stores. The brig was moored within pistol shot of a battery (to which she had hawsers fast), and flanked by another, as also by musketry from the shore; notwithstanding which the service was performed without a man being either killed or wounded on our side. One of the enemy's batteries is stated to have suffered severely from the fire of the launch of the Menelaus.

Sir Edward Pellew has also transmitted a letter from Capt. Manley, of the Badger, giving an account of the destruction of the Countess d'Emerieau French privateer, of 11 guns and 110 men. She upset when in the act of hauling her wind in action with the Badger, and only 14 of her crew, including the Commander, could be saved.

Admiral Lord Keith has transmitted a copy of a letter addressed by Capt. Burdett, of the Maidstone, to Vice-Admiral Sir E. Pellew, giving an account of the boats of that ship, under the directions of Lieut. M'Meekan, having, on the 4th inst. captured off Cape de Gatt, the Martinet, a French xebeck-rigged privateer, of two guns and 51 men.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. Griffin, Kidderminster, printer.

BANKRUPTS.

S. Castle, sen. Durham, money-scrivener.
J. Walker, Tweedmouth, Durham, tanner.
J. Handley, Coventry, mercer.
J. Shuker, Rupert-street, Middlesex, victualler.
W. Townson, Wapping Wall, ironmonger.
S. Morris, Chelsenham, builder.
E. Younge, Watton, Norfolk, shopkeeper.
J. Foulkes, Evesham, Worcester, linen-draper.
T. Oake, Ryde, Isle of Wight, baker.
W. Brice, Bristol, merchant.
R. Youd, Downham-market, Norfolk, tanner.
R. James, Radford, Somerset, timber-dealer.
W. Barnett, Whetstone, Middlesex, dealer and chapman.
R. Rushton, Marsden, Lancashire, calico-manufacturer.
J. Maullin, Coseley, Staffordshire, miller.
S. Oram, Carthusian-street, Aldersgate-street, cooper.
T. Insall, Bristol, victualler.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, May 2.

Vice-Admiral Otway has transmitted a Letter from Captain Parker, of his Majesty's sloop Sarpedon, giving an account of his having, on the 26th of April, captured off Fair Island the Danish schooner privateer Rap, armed with four guns, ten swivels, and 25 men.

[This Gazette contains a Notice from Whitehall, offering a reward of TWO THOUSAND POUNDS for the discovery of the persons who shot Mr. W. Horsfall, of Marsden, near Huddersfield, on Tuesday evening last, as he was returning from Huddersfield-market. Mr. Horsfall has since died of his wounds. Other smaller rewards are offered for the discovery of outrages of a similar though not of so fatal a nature.]

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. Aldridge, Maidenhead, Berks, corn-chandler.

BANKRUPTS.

W. Green, Kingston-upon-Hull, druggist.
F. A. L. S. Van Linschoten, Hackney, colour-manufacturer.
J. Bartlett, Chichester, Sussex, cabinet-maker.
J. Stoor, Leeds, York, merchant.
E. Darke, Minchinhampton, Gloucester, coal-merchant.
W. Osborne, Aldgate High-street, victualler.
W. Hewett, Upper Mary-le-bone-street, cook.
W. Brooks, Lant-street, Southwark, carpenter.
H. Lambert, Barnoldswick, York, cotton-manufacturer.
F. Richmond, Portsea, Southampton, taylor and slopman.
W. Boddington, Oxford, coal-merchant.
B. Baynes, Lea-Bridge, Middlesex, coal-merchant.
W. Manners, Southwark, haberdasher.
W. Jarman, Bishopsgate-street-without, undertaker.
B. Boyle, Cloth-Fair, army-clothier.
J. Davis, Golden-Horse-yard, Aldersgate-street, coach-master.
S. Skipper, Norwich, grocer.
J. Enstall, Portsmouth, vintner.
M. Moses, Chambers-street, Goodman's-fields, salesman.
T. P. Adams, Abchurch-lane, merchant.

J. Harrison, City of London, merchant.
H. Baff, Beaminster, Dorsetshire, linen-draper.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

Consols.....62 ⅛ 62 ⅛

THE EXAMINER.

London, May 3.

The past week has produced some interesting intelligence from the North. A Diet has been held at Orebro, and the language used to the members by Bernadotte has gone near to convince the ministerial writers that it is possible for a Frenchmen to differ with Bonaparte and entertain his own views for his own purposes. The great object indeed both of the King and Crown Prince in their speeches to this assembly seems to have been an excitement of the national feelings against foreign influence; and though the talk against "foreign yokes" and "foreign restrictions on commerce" has of late years been the common cant against England, yet as Bernadotte has always evinced a disposition to obtain our goodwill, and as we really have a Minister in Sweden, who has just been publicly received, it is impossible to interpret such language into any thing but a direct defiance of France, and a declaration to all the world, that Bernadotte means to be a Prince indeed, and rule over independent people. And now, the reader might ask, why do we not deprecate the prospect of a new Coalition against Bonaparte, as we have always done in other instances, and expatiate upon the folly of new wars on the part of an old government? We will tell him why, if he has not already answered the question himself. It is because this old government has been inoculated with a new strength,—with a new power of throwing off her corruptions and starting once more into life. Bernadotte, bred up in camps, an experienced and victorious soldier, is no idle and weak-headed Prince, who thinks he has nothing to do but to put on a laced jacket and go prancing his enemies into a fit:—he will not value himself, as Alexander does, upon having an uniform that fits like a glove; nor will he fight without knowing his means, as the King of Prussia did; nor be an ill husband of his resources, like Francis of Austria; nor set about shooting partridges instead of invaders, like his Sicilian Majesty; nor lastly, will he fume, and look big, and give a host of ridiculous orders, like Gustavus the 4th, and then be the first to run away at a musket shot. Of all this he will do the reverse; and of course, though not a very legitimate, he will make a very respectable Prince and be capable of doing much service to his country.—Again, it is not generally known, though it has been well ascertained, that the people, who will fight under him, had long evinced a considerable disgust at the proceedings of their late sovereign, and that it was their unanimous demand of a reform in the government, joined to the impatience and indignation which those proceedings created, that subsequently produced an alteration in the state, and thus evinced their possession of a spirit, which like our own at the Revolution, was a proof that they deserved better days and had strength enough to obtain them. A long tyranny, it is true, had so weakened that strength, that they could not recover themselves on the instant, as we did, nor obtain perhaps a Prince of their choice; but the right spirit appears to be in them, and if ever there has been a well-founded hope of doing something *continental* against Bonaparte in the shape of coalition, it is under these curious circumstances, when a rival fellow-soldier is roused to resist him, and a spirited people are freed from the dotage of a bad government.

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Two more Flags of Truce have arrived from France; one the beginning of the week, and the other on Thursday evening last. The Government Papers are quite silent as to the chief object of those dispatches; but the *Courier* of yesterday says, "the arrival of another flag of truce so quickly after the former, has created some surprise; but we have some reason to believe that the former one merely brought an apology for the batteries at Calais having fired upon the flag of truce we sent with the answer to the French dispatch. This flag of truce has brought the reply to our answer."

It is stated that a conspiracy against the Emperor of Russia has been detected at Petersburgh, and the principal persons concerned in it apprehended. Several letters have been received in the City which mention some of the particulars. A person of the name of Spiransky, who filled the office of Secretary to the Cabinet, and a Frenchman, are said to be the authors of the plot, in which several others were concerned, one of whose names only is mentioned, viz. M. Magnetsky. It is stated, that this conspiracy was discovered by the Emperor Alexander himself, and that the conspirators were, after an examination, sent off to Siberia.

Riots.—The latest accounts from the country state, that the military are spreading themselves in every direction, and that in consequence the tumultuous disposition of the manufacturers is generally kept down.

Sir F. Burdett, Mr. Brougham, Mr. Whitbread, and several distinguished Members of Parliament, are to dine with the Livery of London on Saturday next, at the City of London Tavern.

"The grand military Consultation Dinner, by which the *sense* of the General Officers (the Colonels of Regiments), is to be pronounced in favour of the Commander in Chief, is to take place on the 11th of May. The idea originated with an illustrious person who was formerly Colonel of the very regiment whose *Serjeants* held a meeting to pronounce a similar eulogium on *their* Adjutant, and for which they received a severe reprimand from Sir James Craig, afterwards promulgated through all the army by Sir David Dundas! At that time his Majesty was in health, and watched over the discipline of the army with the most anxious solicitude, that its rules should not be infringed, nor any pretext be given for insubordination. Now we are told, but we can scarcely give credit to the calumny, that the Prince Regent is to go in State to this military assembly, and hear the General Officers of his army give judgment on the return of the Duke of York to office!"—*Morning Chronicle.*

No particulars have yet arrived relative to the fate of the Psyche frigate: when she parted company with the Scipion, she was in a bad state, and very leaky.

A young German of the name of Roetger, who left England about a twelvemonth since for Africa, in order to prosecute discoveries in the interior of that country, has, we are sorry to learn, been murdered by the Arabs, before he had proceeded any great distance from Mogadore, where he spent some time perfecting himself in the Arabic language. He was a promising young man, and an enthusiast in the cause in which he was lost, and was supposed to understand Arabic better than most who have entered Africa.

Orders in Council.—By persevering in the above system, the silk manufacturers are at this time (says a Correspondent) nearly brought to the brink of ruin; for by the ports in the Mediterranean being shut, the supplies of Italian silks have been received by the Baltic, which have been very uncertain and precarious. In consequence of the greatest distress for want of silks, Government lately granted licences for the importation of raw and thrown Italian silks, through *France direct*, and by which licences a very good and seasonable supply of thrown silk has arrived from a *French port*. And it is a fact, that by this importation alone Bonaparte has derived a revenue of *Fifty Thousand Pounds*, or upwards, by a duty of about 9*s.* per pound, besides giving employment to many of his subjects. Thus this system, the vaunting boast of the Ministry, but condemned (very justly) by the great mercantile body as ruinous to our commerce, gives a large revenue to the enemy, and has brought distress unprecedented upon the very numerous poor manufacturers of the district of Spitalfields. These are indisputable proofs of this ruinous system.

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

MEDICAL BULLETIN.

"*Windsor Castle, April* 25.

"His Majesty continues nearly in the same state."

COURT AND FASHIONABLES.

Her Majesty on Thursday, for the first time these two years, held a Drawing-room, when (says the *Morning Post*) "crowds of the Nobility and Gentry flocked to St. James's, to pay their respects to our most amiable, virtuous, and illustrious Queen, who, viewed either as a wife, a mother, or a *benefactress of society*, has ever been justly considered as a model of female excellence and perfection."—The Prince Regent went in state, in a carriage drawn by six beautiful bays, in elegant *red morocco harness*, ornamented with red ribbons; the servants in their state liveries, with hats *inlaid with blue feathers*. His Royal Highness was escorted by a party of the life-guards, and after paying his respects to the Queen, he retired, having remained in the Grand Council Chamber *half an hour*. This drawing-room was most singularly attended. The *Princess of Wales*, the Duchess of York, Princess Sophia of Gloucester, the *Marchioness of Hertford*, &c. &c. were present. The Marchioness of *Headfort*, too, graced the assembly, although the "*grey-headed adulterer*" was in official attendance!—Whether he and his master paid their respects to their wives, or whether the *half hour's* visit expired before the Ladies made their appearance, the newspapers do not mention, though such information would have been very useful for forming a due estimate of royal, courtly, and conjugal feelings.

The *Chronicle* of yesterday, however, says, "It was arranged that the Princess Regent, as her Royal Highness was determined to attend the Drawing-room, should go before the Prince Regent, and retire before his appearance. Accordingly the Royal Couple did not meet. The Princess had retired before his Royal Highness entered the room."

FINE ARTS.

MR. WILKIE'S EXHIBITION.

In his pictures of the two last years, Mr. Wilkie has not only got rid of the thick proportion of his figures, like those in *the Cut Finger*, a picture of exquisite colouring and character, but whenever it is suitable, displays an elegant taste in their shapes and attitudes. Such are those in the *Blindman's Buff* and *the Village Holiday*, and especially the figures of a nursing and a waiting girl in the latter, whose gracefulness of form do not interfere with the requisite simplicity. This picture is Mr. Wilkie's last finished work, and is, I think, his most perfect one. It is replete with the jauntiness and joviality which *a Village Holiday* exhibits at a public-house. The main circumstance is that of a devoted drinker, hesitating between a desire to gratify his wife's request to go home with her, or further to indulge in his toping pleasures, by staying at the public-house with his tippling companions. His lingering, unsteady step, his face fondly turned towards his companions, and the force of arms that his wife is compelled to adopt in lieu of argument, most naturally designate his regret at parting from his glass, while, on the other hand, his submissiveness to her will, in spite of the entreaties of his fellow-tipplers, and in defiance of ridicule and of the cogent persuasive of the bottle, which they temptingly hold up to his view, as naturally express his hitherto unquenched sense of domestic duty. The odious nature of drunkenness is strikingly expressed in the debased situation of a man it has deprived both of mental and bodily power, and prostrated on the ground, at whom a boy is scornfully pointing and a matronly female is looking with infinite concern as she passes. In the introduction of this circumstance the Painter has taken care that while our imaginations are entertained with the various graces of his pencil in the designation of this jovial scene, our minds should be duly impressed with the immorality of the habit, otherwise so amusingly depicted. The group in which the Landlord is pouring out a glass of ale to partake with his guests, and in which a Negro is suspending his drinking while he observes the fate of the contest to keep possession of the hesitating husband, is a perfect specimen of complacent surrender of mind and body to the social enjoyment of the oft replenished glass; as the group in which a party have risen to hob-a-nob, and a Piper is projecting himself through an opened window, as he holds out his wine, and gives the toast with rapture, is of the joyous effects of wine.—Whenever an idea is recognised in Mr. Wilkie's works that has been painted by others, the charm of novelty is conferred upon it by the original manner in which it is ex-

pressed. Such is that passage where a man, as much inflamed by the charms of the Bar-maid as the Bottle, is rapturously but delicately paying his addresses to her, while another leans earnestly out of a window, to engage her attention to the replenishment of his empty cann. The joyous impression of these and similar incidents, is invigorated by contrast with the sober aspect of two men who are separately sitting in quiet seclusion from the rest, and in temperate relaxation and enjoyment. In this, as in *the Cut Finger* and *Blindman's Buff*, Mr. Wilkie has adopted a warmer tone of colour than in most of his former works, and has obtained thereby a more rich and agreeable effect. He has at the same time introduced, with the most consummate judgment, every variety of hue, from their highest to their deepest tints, producing as delightful a variety and concordance to the eye, as that which salutes the ear in a masterly succession and intermingling of delicate and vigorous sounds from a number of exquisitely toned instruments. It is a sunshine brilliancy without any thing garish. He is not indebted for the lustre of his lights to the opposition of deep shades. They are produced by a moderate degree of shade in union with truth and clearness of colour. His large masses of light and shade in this piece remind us of the same beautiful masses in the works of Teniers, and which impart a feeling of magnificence to subjects even insignificant in themselves. The yellowish grey demi-tone which covers the whole range of building and trees across the middle of the canvass, is of much value, as the main link connecting the light and dark, the warm and cool tints of the chiaroscuro and colour. The vacant space between the groups is not among the least proofs of the ripened judgment of the Painter, by which, with other admirable arrangements, it presents a canvass no more than sufficiently occupied. It resembles the rests in music, that confer enhanced effect on the movements. The pencilling and entire execution in this piece, are perfectly free and devoid of manner. There is, for instance, sufficient squareness of marking without that affectation of it often observable in Teniers. In fine, it is in every respect vigorous without the least extravagance, correct and chaste without the least insipidity; and I cannot scruple to pronounce it, in my judgment, a more perfect picture of the kind than has ever been executed in this or any other country. His *Rent-day* however equals it in point of character and vigour of tone.

(To be continued.)

The Spring Garden Exhibition maintains, and in the improved talent of some of its members, increases, its character for Landscape Painting. The most tasteful eye will dwell with pleasure on all its pieces, and with delight on some, recognizing in them the most striking aspects of Nature.

R. H.

THE OPERA.

Sir,—The fair promise held forth by Mr. Didelot's first production, has been rather increased than diminished by his subsequent efforts; and it is particularly gratifying, after the miserable and puny efforts of some of the late ballet-masters, to meet with any thing that evinces tolerable taste, or the smallest portion of invention. M. Didelot has further confirmed his pretensions to these, by his last new production of *Zephyr inconstant, puni et fixé, ou les Noces de Flore*; the subject of which, as the name declares, is the *Amours of Zephyrus and Flora*, his subsequent inconstancy, its punishment, and his final reformation. On this simple foundation, with the aid of some allegorical enlargement, M. Didelot has constructed a fanciful ballet, which presents us with an amusing picture of those immortal beings, whom poetry has delighted to describe, in spite of all their errors and absurdities. I must however protest against the *Bacchante*, who has been introduced to allure *Zephyrus* from his fidelity to *Flora*, and who is certainly one of the most unfit beings to effect such a design that could have been selected from the stores of mythology. Our ideas of female attraction naturally revolt from all appearance of inebriation, or from the frantic mirth that usually accompanies it, and the rude clashing of cymbals is by no means an accompaniment that accords, either in sound or gesture, with our notions of female delicacy. The exhibition of so degraded a state of nature is altogether injudicious, and Madame Didelot would do well to soften down, rather than represent with their full force, the characteristics of the priestesses of Bacchus. Here the talent she possesses is much misapplied, and her too faithful representation becomes the very antidote to the pleasure it is intended to convey.

Monsieur Didelot would do well to suppress the great delight he seems to take in setting his characters to fly about the stage. Vestris is several times mounted in air; Angiolina too has her flights; and many of those poor little sleepy objects of compassion, who are doomed to shine and shiver, in the thin attire of Loves and Sylphs, are dangled in air, at the mercy of a few yards of rope, which, by an unlucky snap, might precipitate them from their elevation, and convince them too fatally of their mortality. Such awkward attempts to make aerial beings, give no pleasure that can compensate in the smallest degree for the danger; and all the interest they excite is to see them safely landed from their peril, and no longer depending on ropemakers or mechanists for their existence.

H. R.

MR. CAMPBELL'S FIRST LECTURE ON POETRY,

DELIVERED AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTION.

[*From a Correspondent.*]

"Let such teach others, who themselves excel,
"And censure freely, who have written well."

In an attempt to give some faint idea of Mr. Campbell's most masterly introduction to this course of lectures, we should indeed tremble at our temerity, if it were possible that we could dissent from the universal approbation, which it excited in those who had the good fortune to hear it. We do not however on this occasion feel ourselves called upon *custodire ipsum custodem*,—to censure the Censor,—but rather to add our tribute to those murmurs of admiring applause, which so frequently broke in upon "the mute wonder lurking in men's ears," "to catch his sweet and honied sentences." The pleasing impression is yet so strong upon our own minds, that we find ourselves more powerfully tempted to dwell upon that impression, than to describe with any minuteness the high excitements which awakened it: we doubt indeed the possibility of affording to our readers any adequate description, unless we could borrow, for the purpose of their

own illustration, those glowing sentiments and language, which alone could do justice to themselves.—We will therefore confine ourselves to a mere outline of the Lecture.

Mr. Campbell, after delineating with singular judgement the nature, the province, and the unbounded range of Poetry, proceeded to shew its great antiquity, and to account for its priority to prose as a settled form of composition from the necessity of aiding unlettered memories by metrical harmony; for which reason it became the language of religion, of history, of science, and even of legislation. Here he mentioned, incidentally, that so late as the middle of the last century the laws of Sweden were published in verse; and we may observe, that we have ourselves seen a *rhyming* version of a part of the unpoetical lucubrations of Lord Coke.

He then controverted the opinion that the hold of poetry upon the sensibilities of mankind must be dangerously weakened as civilization gains strength, and that its magical influence must fade before the increasing light of science and philosophy. He clearly demonstrated that the most profound and highly cultivated minds were not unwilling to lend themselves to this pleasing witchery; which so far from being in any sense hostile to the dissemination of knowledge, formed, not unfrequently, the most alluring medium, through which it could be communicated. This part of the subject recalled to us those exquisite lines in the exordium to the 4th book of *Lucretius*, in which that poet makes a similar assertion and gives such ample evidence of its truth. Of the charms which a subject can derive from the most beautifully poetical diction, the Lecturer, "*musæo contingens cuncta lepore*," afforded us a finished and perfect specimen. From the fertile store of a glowing imagination, he scattered in rich profusion and infinite variety all the varied beauties of composition: "*idem lætus ac pressus, jucundus et gravis, tum copiâ tum brevitate mirabilis; nec poeticâ modò sed oratoriâ virtute eminentissimus.*"

Mr. Campbell then enforced the necessity of metre to the perfection of poetry, and called upon his hearers to reflect, if Milton were robbed of his sounding and majestic numbers, with what painful feelings they would contemplate the "*disjecti membra Poetæ.*" Let us, said he, imagine this unhallowed transmutation of the *Paradise Lost* into Prose: it would lose what Aristotle calls its complexion and colour; yes, it would lose indeed its very bloom of vitality itself, and assume a cadaverous aspect, the aspect of being dead to all the purposes of poetry.

The measured prose, into which the poetical books of the Bible are translated, Mr. C. finely described as a sort of dead march of language, well suited to the character of the sacred writings; but ill adapted to subjects merely human, where it assumes an uncouth or an inflated appearance. He argued that even Comedy in her higher walks, when she ascended to the energetic or tender, could not advantageously dispense with verse, which such writers as Terence, Shakespeare, and Moliere, have used not as fetters but as ornament. We think the ornament can only be considered cumbrous in the last of these dramatists, in whom indeed it is not so much the verse as the rhyme, which may be sometimes said "*enchainer la raison.*" In Tragedy the aid of poetry seems to be more obviously demanded, in order to sheath the poignancy of those emotions, which would otherwise become too directly painful; and this he happily exemplified in the *Gamester*, where the incidents and language of common life harrow up our feelings by presenting a picture of the deepest domestic misery, transferred in all its naked horror from the fireside to the theatre. His exquisite simile of the deep transparent waters retiring from a bay of the ocean, will here present itself to the minds of all, who heard it, but must not be injured by any ineffectual attempt to repeat its precise terms.

In his investigation of the mental powers, Mr. Campbell denied that a fine imagination was so easily separable from an accurate judgment as is commonly supposed. Of their perfect union he might, could his diffidence have permitted, have adduced himself as a sufficient evidence, since he has now so fully demonstrated that he has

—— "judg'd with coolness, though he sang with fire;
"His precepts teach but what his works inspire."

He, however, preferred illustrating his position, that the fire of true inspiration emitted light as well as heat, by reminding us that the logic of Shakespeare was frequently as potent as his fancy; so fraternally gigantick were his imagination and his intellect.

His analysis and history of Taste comprized more of novel and interesting matter than we had thought a subject so much discussed capable of receiving: and his description of original Genius, looking abroad into the creation for new and undiscovered sources of imagery, most manifestly proceeded from one long habituated

"To muse on Nature with a Poet's eye."
(Pleasures of Hope.)

After alluding to the various theories upon the Sublime, the Beautiful, and the Picturesque, he showed how much our perceptions of them depend upon the association of ideas. He exposed the insufficiency of such truly French definitions of Sublimity as those given by Voltaire and La Harpe, who esteem rapidity or a dazzling splendour as it's essential constituents; whereas the slow and gradual accumulation of grand objects will often serve to exalt their magnitude and their majesty: of which the concluding passage in the second book of Armstrong furnished a noble illustration. As instances of the Sublime in human fortitude, he mentioned Sydney and Argyle upon the scaffold with all the pathos which their martyr-sufferings demanded: and in a strain of kindred eloquence to that, in which Akenside eulogizes the patriotism of Brutus.

We can imagine nothing more beautiful than the reasons he assigned for the admiration with which we contemplate the Moon: it is because it raises our thoughts to superior beings, because it watches so widely and tranquilly over the repose of nature, and reflects the promises of Heaven in the serenity of it's face. But we shall incur the double charge of presumption and injustice, if we advance farther on such ground with unhallowed footsteps.

In treating of the Picturesque, Mr. C. exposed the error of imagining that a subject must of course be found for the pencil wherever Poetry had borrowed expressions from the sister art. They are frequently used to decorate ideas, which, springing from a highly-transitive enthusiasm, are too fleeting and aerial to sit for their portrait; and which will not submit to be embodied by the Painter, with whom time itself stands still.

Here, however, we are trespassing again, and must conclude with an anxious desire that some few of these forci-

ble phrases, which have sunk so deeply into our minds, will be welcomed by many of our readers as bordering upon the very words of the Lecturer: fully aware that our best means of gratifying them must in this instance be derived from the memory, for their sake as well as our own, we wish it were more faithful. But many and great excellencies naturally exceed all faculty of retention, where no desert of dulness intervenes to afford a pause from that turbulence of pleasure, with which their uninterrupted succession overpowers while it delights the mind. We find that we have been induced to venture beyond our depth by a desire to describe the feelings of admiration, with which we listened to a Critic, who "is himself the great Sublime he draws," whom we had long regarded as a Poet disdaining to enter the trite and common path that leads to an ephemeral renown, but boldly venturing on the "avia Pieridum loca."—(*Lucret.*)

Sed vatem egregium, cui non sit publica vena.—(*Juven.*)

Ingenium cui sit, cui mens divinior, atque os
Magna sonaturum.—(*Hor.*)

And if we may yet again be permitted to have recourse to the ancients, for expressions more worthy of our subject than any that we can find without their assistance, we will explain our idea of the character, to which this Poet of these latter days appears entitled, by paraphrasing Quintilian's famous declaration concerning Cicero:—"*Ille se proferisse sciat, cui Cicero valdè placebit:*" Let him rest assured that he possesses a genuine and well-cultivated taste, to whom the unaffected pathos and simple sublimity of Campbell shall prove eminently grateful. And should it not be deemed presumptuous to state in what manner we think the rest of this Course of Lectures may be best advanced towards perfection, we would merely say,

"Servetur ad imum
Qualis ab incæpto processerit."

J.

FINANCE.

Debt.—From Official Returns just made to the House of Commons, it appears that the Funded Debt of Great Britain and Ireland, on the 1st of January last, amounted to the tremendous sum of,—eight hundred and seventeen millions, one hundred and one thousand, seven hundred and forty-five pounds, five shilling and eightpence farthing.—And the Unfunded Debt, up to the 5th of January 1812, amounted to fifty-two millions, two hundred and ninety-seven thousand, one hundred and seventy nine pounds, five shillings and eight-pence: making the National Debt nearly amount to *Nine Hundred Millions Sterling.*

Revenue.—The total amount of Money raised in the year 1811, is as follows:—By Permanent Taxes, &c. (35,458,269*l.* 4*s.* 9¾*d.*)—By Interest on account of Ireland and Portugal, Surplus Exchequer Fees, &c. &c. (3,003,476*l.* 19*s.* 5¾*d.*)—By Duties annually granted, to discharge 3,000,000*l.* Exchequer Bills (2,827,785*l.* 18*s.* 1¼*d.*)—By War Taxes, (22,393,053*l.* 13*s.* 5¾*d.*)—Making together, 63,682,585*l.* 15*s.* 10¼*d.*—which added to the Money on account of Loans, (16,636,375*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*)—Ditto on account of Lotteries, (992,136*l.* 8*s.*)—make a grand total of *Eighty-one Millions, two hundred and forty-one thousand, ninety-seven pounds, seven shillings, and seven-pence farthing.*—Such are among the blessed effects of the present system of Corruption and War!

CITY ADDRESS.

On Tuesday the Lord Mayor, Recorder, Sheriffs, the Aldermen Combe, Wood, and Goodbehere; City Officers, and about seventy Commoners, went at two o'clock from Guildhall to Carlton-house, and presented the following Address to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent:—

"*To his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; the humble and dutiful Address and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City of London, in Common Council assembled.*

"*May it please your Royal Highness,*

"We, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, humbly approach your Royal Highness, dutifully, to represent our deep sense of the difficulties and dangers impending over the country, and anxiously to invite your beneficent attention to the complaints and grievances of your afflicted but faithful subjects.

"Fourteen months have elapsed since your Royal Highness acceded to the Regency of the kingdoms, at which time we felt it our duty to submit to you a statement of abuses which had taken root in the various departments of the Government, the speedy correction and removal of which we deemed essential to the prosperity and safety of the empire; and we now again present ourselves before your Royal Highness, to express our unfeigned sorrow that, during this interval, no efficient measures have been adopted by your Ministers calculated to satisfy the wishes and wants of your people; but that, on the contrary, the same mal-practices and the same false principles of Government have been tenaciously pursued and enforced, thereby adding contumely to injury, and extinguishing the spring of public energy in a free nation. We have continued to witness the same system of profligacy in the expenditure of the public money—the same system of governing by undue influence and corruption—the same system of delusion in regard to the circulating medium and finances of the country—the same system of arbitrary and grievous assessment and collection of taxes, by which industry is thwarted and liberty violated—the same system of introducing into the heart of the country foreign troops—the same system of persecuting the press, by which the value of free discussion on national topics is lost to Prince and People—and, finally, the same system of coercive restrictions on the freedom of commerce, by which many of our merchants and manufacturers have been involved in ruin, and flourishing districts reduced to beggary.

"As faithful and loyal subjects, and as the Representatives of the first City in your Empire, we feel the deepest affliction in being thus compelled to reiterate this enumeration of the mal-practices and mistaken principles of your Ministers; we should, however, compromise that sense of public duty, and that character of frankness which appertain to us as Freemen and Britons, were we to disguise the truth, and forbear to express our conviction that your confidential advisers have plunged this great and once flourishing Empire into an abyss from which it can be rescued only by radical reforms and a total change in our domestic government and foreign policy.

"In a crisis, therefore, which involves the destiny of the greatest Empire of these or past times, of an Empire which is blessed by Providence with unequalled natural advantages, and which possesses a people that, in all ages, have bravely secured their prosperity on the solid basis of public liberty, we feel that we should justly merit the reproaches of our country and posterity, if, at such a crisis, we were to refrain from laying before your Royal Highness a faithful representation of the public grievances, and expressing our painful apprehensions for the welfare and the very existence of the nation—We therefore pray,

"That your Royal Highness will be graciously pleased to dismiss from your Councils those Ministers who have proved themselves so undeserving of the confidence of your people,

and call to the Administration of the Government men of public character and patriotic principles, whose enlarged and liberal policy is suited to the enlightened character of the nation, whose wisdom and energy would prove equal to the exigencies of the times—whose inclination would lead them to secure the affections of the people, and whose public spirit would stimulate them to effect those reforms in the Commons House of Parliament, and in the various branches of the State, which, at this perilous crisis, are absolutely necessary to the restoration of national prosperity, and not less essential to the honour and true interest of the Crown than to the security and true glory of the Empire."

To which his Royal Highness (says the *Morning Post*,) "returned the following dignified, patriotic, and admirable reply:"—

"It must always be my inclination to listen with attention to the Petitions of any part of his Majesty's subjects. For the redress of any grievances of which they can reasonably complain, I have full confidence in the wisdom of Parliament, the great Council of the nation.

"Being firmly of opinion that the total change in the domestic government and foreign policy of the country, which it is the declared object of your Petition to accomplish, would only serve to increase the dangers against which we have to contend, I should be wanting to myself, and to the great interest committed to my charge, if I did not steadily persevere in those endeavours which appear to me best calculated to support the just rights of the nation abroad, and to preserve inviolate the Constitution at home.

"These endeavours can only be attended with success, when seconded by the zeal and loyalty of his Majesty's people, upon which I shall continue to place the strongest reliance."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Mr. Examiner,—I have lately been amusing myself by reading the *Public Advertiser* for the year 1770, a period, in some instances, not unlike the present. As we are led by the Prince Regent's Letter to believe that he wishes to follow very closely in his Father's steps (and of this we have a *proof* of not many days' date), perhaps he may be glad of copying his Father's famous speech to the Sheriffs, when they demanded an audience: if so, I have taken the trouble to copy it, with an account of an interesting conversation which took place on this memorable occasion between the Sheriffs and the Creatures in waiting. As it is probable that very many of your readers may not have an opportunity of turning to the original account of this very singular occurrence, perhaps you may think it of sufficient interest to warrant a republication at this time.—Your constant reader, M. C.

P. S. From this specimen, might not the *Morning Post* have proved that the Prince Regent is a *breather of eloquence* by inheritance?

From the Public Advertiser of March 10, 1770.

Notwithstanding what has been pretended to the contrary, we can assure the public, that the account in our paper of the Sheriffs' reception and speech to the King, with his Majesty's answer thereto, is true; with these additional circumstances:—Whilst the Sheriffs were waiting on Wednesday, Lord Denbigh came up to the City Remembrancer, and asked him whether the Address, &c. was signed and sealed, or how it was authenticated. The Remembrancer said, he was a City Officer, and that it was no part of his office to give Lord Denbigh an answer to his question. Lord Denbigh then went to Mr. Sheriff Townsend, and asked him whether the business which brought him here was not new and singular? and whether the City had ever presented a remonstrance to a King before? Mr. Townsend replied with another question,—Did ever a King of England before turn a deaf ear to the Petitions of 60,000 Freeholders, and his back on those who presented them? Lord Denbigh then asked what made a corporate act? Mr. Townsend, laughing, answered, an act of the Corporation to be sure.

On Thursday evening the Sheriffs received the following Letter from Lord Weymouth:—

"*St. James's, March* 8, 1770.

"Gentlemen,—The King commands me to inform you, in consequence of the Message which you brought yesterday to St. James's, that he is *always ready* to receive applications from *any of his subjects*; but as the present case of Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, seems entirely new, I am commanded to inquire of you in what manner it is *authenticated*, and what the nature of the assembly was, in which this measure was adopted? When you furnish *me* with answers to these questions, I shall signify to you his Majesty's further pleasure. I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

"*Sheriffs of London.* "Weymouth."

Yesterday noon, at 20 minutes after twelve, the Sheriffs went to St. James's. About one, Lord Bolingbroke, the Lord in waiting, came; the Remembrancer told him that the Sheriffs of London were attending his Majesty's pleasure, and that they required an audience. Some time after, Lord Bolingbroke came out, and inquired of the Sheriffs whether he was to tell his Majesty that they came with a fresh Message, or with a Message? The Sheriffs answered, with a Message. Soon after, the two Secretaries of State, Lord Rochfort and Lord Weymouth, came to the Sheriffs. Lord Weymouth asked them whether they had received his Letter, which was written by his Majesty's order?

Sheriffs. We have.

Lord Weymouth. His Majesty desires to know whether you come in consequence of that Letter, or whether you come on any fresh business?

Sheriffs. We come in consequence of that Letter.

Lord W. Would it not be more proper to send an answer in writing through me?

Sheriffs. We act ministerially; as Sheriffs of London we have a right to an audience, and cannot communicate to any other person but the King the subject of our Message.

Lord W. I do not dispute your right to an audience, but would it not be better and more accurate to give your Message to me in writing?

Sheriffs. We know the value and consequence of the Citizens' right to apply immediately to the King, and not to a third person; and we do not mean that any of their rights and privileges shall be betrayed by our means.

His Majesty's Levee began at a quarter past two, at which time the two Secretaries came to the Sheriffs, and Lord Weymouth said, "His Majesty, *understanding* that you come ministerially, *authorised* with a Message *from the City of London*, will see you as soon as the Levee is over."

As soon as the Levee was over, the Sheriffs were introduced into the King's closet. The King did not, as usual, receive them alone, but Lord Gower, Lord Rochfort, and Lord Weymouth, were present. Mr. Sheriff Townsend addressed his Majesty in these words:—

"May it please your Majesty,

"When we had last the honour to appear before your Majesty, your Majesty was graciously pleased to *promise* an answer by one of your Majesty's principal Secretaries of State; but we had yesterday *questions* proposed to us by Lord Weymouth. In answer to which, we beg leave humbly to inform your Majesty, that the application which we make to your Majesty we make as Sheriffs of the City of London, by the direction of the Livery in Common Hall legally assembled. The Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, to be presented to your Majesty by their Chief Magistrate, is the act of the Citizens of London in their greatest Court, and is ordered by them to be properly authenticated as their act."

To which his Majesty was *most graciously pleased* to reply *in these most gracious and condescending words* to the City of London:—

"*I will consider of the Answer you have given me.*"

Whereupon the Sheriffs withdrew.

PHINEAS ADAMS.

[FROM THE TAUNTON COURIER.]

It was our intention to have entered largely on the various arguments, both in favour of and against the opinion, that the subject of this article had imposed on the public by the wonderful exhibition of Insensibility he displayed, and appeared to lie in, from the 26th of April, 1811, to the 20th of August, in the same year. Want of space, however, compels us to omit, until a more convenient period, any further notice respecting the case, except the following statement, which appears to have so strong an analogy to Adams's condition, and is reported under circumstances so unwarrantable of suspicion that they might have been perverted to aid any sinister design, that we cannot in fairness but admit that it powerfully assists the doubts in favour of the young man's exculpation from fraud on the occasion. The suddenness of his recovery *might* have been accidental. The concealment of such recovery *might* also have been the result of other considerations than those arising from consciousness of guilt; and his subsequent elopement, from the apprehension excited in him of the pretended visitation of a press-gang, *might* have been determined from a settled aversion both to the military and naval service. His *previous* bad habits, and his tricks to escape the military service, it is true, do considerably abate any favourable calculation which the public might incline to from these considerations; but it should be recollected that the ostensible cause of his illness was a real one—he had experienced a fall which produced a considerable effusion of blood, and to this all the events connected with his subsequent condition might, without any violence to physiological propriety, be reasonably referred. Besides, the amount of his sufferings, compared with those he endeavoured to avoid, must have been so excessive in degree as to silence any presumption that he was reconciled to their endurance as the price of the ultimate benefit he proposed to himself. From the well-attested facts, which have been afforded us, we are strongly disposed to believe that it is not within the powers of human fortitude to submit to that severity of test which was, in such varied shapes, administered to this young man to ascertain his sanity. We must quit this subject for the present; but it is altogether, in whatever light it may be viewed, one of most extraordinary character and interest.

[Here follows an account, from the Philosophical Transactions, 1721, of a sleepy person, one Samuel Chilton, of Pinsbury, near Bath, a labourer, about 25 years of age, who fell into such profound sleeps, that nothing could rouse him. The first sleep lasted a month, when he got up and went to work as usual.—The second fit lasted seventeen weeks, during which period he was bled, blistered, cupped, and scarified, but all to no purpose.—The third lasted three months, and it was during this time that Dr. Oliver, a physician of repute, saw and tried various experiments upon him. He pulled him by the shoulders, pinched his nose, stopped his mouth and nose together as long as he durst for fear of choking him, held a vial of spirit of salmoniac to his nose, poured into one nostril half an ounce of that fiery spirit, and even crammed the same nostril with powder of white hellebore, but all to no other effect than that of making the sleeper's nose run and gleet, and his eyelids shiver and tremble a little.—On a fourth occasion, a large pin was thrust into his arm to the very bone, without any apparent effect.—"In all this time (says the Doctor) they assured me no body had seen him eat or drink, tho' they endeavour'd it all they could, but it always stood by him, and they observ'd, sometimes once a day, sometimes once in two days, all was gone.—In this manner he lay till the 18th of November, when his mother, hearing him make a noise, ran immediately up to him, and found him eating. She askt him how he did? He said, Very well, thank God. She asky him again, which he lik'd best, bread and butter, or bread and cheese? He answer'd, Bread and cheese. Upon this, the poor woman, overjoy'd, bid him to acquaint his brother with it, and they came strait up into the chamber to discourse with him, but found him as fast asleep as ever, and all the art they had coo'd not wake him. From this time to the end of January or the beginning of February (for I don't rem learn from any body the very day), he slept not so profoundly as before, for when they call'd him by his name he seem'd to hear them, and be somewhat sensible, tho' he could not make them any answer. His eyes were not now shut so close, and he had frequently great tremblings of his eye-lids, upon which they expected every day when he would wake, which happened not till about the time just now mention'd, and then he wak'd perfectly well, not rememb'ring any thing that happen'd all this while. 'Twas observ'd he was very little alter'd in his flesh, only complained the cold pincht him more than usually, and so presently fell to husbandry as at other times."]

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH,

Thursday, April 30.

THE KING v. DANIEL ISAAC EATON.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL prayed the judgment of the Court against this defendant, who was found guilty last Term, of a libel upon the Christian Religion, in publishing the third Part of Paine's Age of Reason.

The defendant put in an affidavit, stating that he published the libel without any evil intention; that, although the libel was stated to be against the King's Crown and dignity, he had been personally acquainted with his Majesty, and his Royal Brother the late Duke of York, and had received a particular instance of the King's grace and favour, in his Majesty remitting an outlawry, under sentence of which the defendant laboured; that, although the pamphlet was charged to be to the dishonor of Almighty God, he had conceived it to be otherwise, as it contained several passages from which the power and benevolence of the Deity were deduced, as manifest in the works of the creation; that the morality of the Holy Gospels was throughout the pamphlet treated as excellent; that he had erroneously believed it to be the right of all persons to discuss the authenticity of any passage in the Holy Scriptures, in concurrence with the practice of the ancient Fathers and ablest Divines; that he had been bred in the Protestant Religion, according to the rites of the Church of England, and had never practised any other; that he had perfect confidence in God's justice and mercy, and had always endeavoured to avoid all evil example, to live in charity with all men, and not to commit any unjust, fraudulent, or cruel actions; that he had lately imported a Soap from America, which was a specific for the Scurvy, upon the sale of which he endeavoured to gain a maintenance, and had designed to desist from the publication of political and anti-christian pamphlets; that on a former occasion Government had seized and burnt 2800*l.* worth of books, and compelled him to pay 280*l.* for his furniture; that he was sixty years of age, afflicted with a cough, and very infirm; and that he prayed the mercy of the Court, in pity to the errors and infirmities of human judgment.

Mr. PRINCE SMITH then addressed the Court in mitigation of punishment. He did not deny the propriety of the law upon which the information was filed; but all human laws were founded upon circumstances, and changed with the influx of time, and the character and manners of a people. If they were not wholly abrogated, they either ceased to be enforced at all, or were enforced with less severity. In times of Popery, the Court proceeded against all persons who disputed any of the doctrines of the church, with the utmost rigour, even unto death. They proceeded in this view with mistaken ideas of charity, and punished man not so much for the correction of his morals as the salvation of his soul. They proceeded against heretics with the fire and the stake here, to save them from eternal fire hereafter. In latter times, the writ *De Heretico Comburendo* had been abolished, and principles of toleration necessarily prevailed. The Court was the guardian of the morals of the people, and not the keeper of their souls. The Learned Counsel then proceeded to shew, that during the last century great latitude had been allowed to the discussion of religious doctrines, even in defiance of the statutes themselves. Some sects of Christians denied the divine nature of Christ; and others

would not profess their belief in the personality of the Holy Ghost,—all of which was against the Toleration Act.—In earlier times Jews and Infidels were considered with such hatred and animosity, that the King could make no league with an Infidel Prince. In the present days, commerce had extended our connections with all parts of the world; and forty millions of subjects in the East, who denied the Christian Religion, and believed in an incarnation 800 years older than Moses, were the subjects of the King of England. The pamphlet before the Court was occupied in considering the various prophecies of Christ to be found in the Old Testament; and a similar investigation had employed the pens of many learned and pious divines. The pamphlet closed with Paine's opinions of a future state; in which he professed a belief of an existence after death, and, to a certain extent, of a state of rewards and punishments; and religion was nothing more than the pursuit of moral conduct, founded on the belief of a future state. The Learned Counsel strongly contended for the right of free discussion in matters of religion; and said, that notwithstanding all the enquiries of this nature which had been permitted, the Christian Religion had only flourished the more, in proportion as it had been attacked. The question, then, for the Court, was, how far they would enforce the law against the defendant, in charity to his errors; and since the Christian Religion was the law of the land, would not the Court, by shewing mercy to the defendant, act in furtherance of its most noble doctrine, which was Charity? It was quite impossible to maintain the fear of God by force; and religion ceased to be the fear of God, when it became the fear of man.—The unfortunate man now before the Court had published the two former parts of this work, which the Learned Counsel had read only in the admirable Apology for the Bible of Bishop Watson, and which had doubtless tended more to cure infidelity than any legal prosecution on record. In the spirit of this free enquiry, thus was good deduced out of evil; and in this spirit and with this belief of its utility, had the divines of later times promoted the free discussion of revelation, instead of (like the Romish Church) calling upon the secular arm to protect revelation, and had thus endeavoured to convince by argument rather than by force. The *informations* of the Attorney-General seemed to be so denominated in derision of all knowledge, and were a complete bar to all free enquiry. An answer to this book were rather to have been wished than that it should call down the vengeance of the law. By such means Christianity would have been well served; and it would shew to the world as if no answer could be given to this book, that the Attorney-General was obliged to appeal to the strong arm of the law. Many of Mr. Paine's arguments as to the prophecies might be admitted; but it did not follow, because some quotations from the Old Testament were not prophecies of the New, that all the prophecies in the Bible were false. There still remained the testimony of miracles, and the internal evidence of the truth of Christianity. Many who had written with as much audacity, but more artifice, than the defendant, had gone unpunished. If Paine had said, that he who believed in Christianity was an infidel to nature, Hume had asserted, that he who believed in miracles believed against all common sense, and (to use a legal phrase) after possibility of belief was extinct. The Learned Counsel then adverted to the infidel tendency of Lucretius, a work which had corrupted Bolingbroke and Pope, and had given rise to that deistical poem, the Essay on Man; and yet it was but the other day that the Counsel saw a new translation of Lucretius advertised, under the sanction of the Attorney General's name as a subscriber. The days of burning were now over, and Christianity was in so flourishing a condition that a whole host of extra divines had dispersed themselves on missions of that Gospel all over the world. When the arm of the law grasped at the thunders of Heaven, it might be impotent to convince, but it was powerful to destroy.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL expressed his satisfaction that no gentleman at the bar had been found who had not thought it necessary, upon this occasion, to profess himself a Christian. The Learned Gentleman had asserted, with more smartness than foundation in fact, that the Attorney General by his *informations* shut up the gates of knowledge. If he were to indict a man for murder, he should certainly shut out from the enquiry, whether murder were or were not a crime; but not whether the accused were guilty or not. As to the gentleman's opinion of the most judicious manner of treating infidel writers, with which he had favoured the Court, he might, with all his knowledge, have found, that there was not a syllable in the pamphlet which had not been drawn from the very dregs of infidelity, and which had not been answered over and over again. The arguments of other Infidels were nothing to this question: where one man might be injured by the works alluded to, 500 would be by this pamphlet. Hume was read only by men of literary habits; and his doctrines would, with men of sound understanding and reasoning minds, carry their own antidote with them. The great fault of these writers was to carry their idea of God to the perfection of the human intellect, and then to disbelieve all revelation from Heaven which was not perfectly intelligible to that portion of intellect which they possessed: it was the vanity of man against the omnipotence and omniscience of God. It rested with the Court to determine this offence and punishment as it regarded the peace of the country; and, if there were no authorities on this subject, reason and principle must decide, that this was an offence against that peace which it had a direct tendency to disturb. The defendant had imported from America, and published here, a pamphlet, which called the Christian religion a fable, its author an impostor, and its teachers designing and interested villains, supporting themselves upon a mere system of fraud. The Attorney-General concluded with professing himself a sincere Christian, and with repelling the idea that he countenanced the doctrine of Epicurus; but

Lord ELLENBOROUGH interrupted him to urge, that it was unnecessary to do so. It might as well be said, that because a man subscribed to an edition of the classics, he was not a Christian. Let the defendant be remanded to custody, and brought up for judgment on Friday se'nnight.

THE KING *v.* THOMAS BROWN, ESQ.

This defendant, for forging a grant from the Crown, of lands in the Island of St. Vincents, was sentenced to four years imprisonment in Newgate.

THE KING *v.* STEVENSON AND LAWTON.

These defendants, for assisting the escape of French prisoners, were sentenced each to two years' imprisonment.

THE KING *v.* HUNT, SQUIRES, AND PRICE.

The first two of these defendants, for a most scandalous disturbance in a dissenting meeting, at Pershore, in Worcestershire, were sentenced, the first, to fine 20*l.* to be imprisoned one month, and to find security, himself in 200*l.* and two sureties in 100*l.* each; and the second to one month's imprisonment. The third did not appear.

MARRIAGES.

At Cambridge, on Friday, Mr. S. K. Simmons, to Miss Ann Whitehead.

DEATHS.

On Saturday, April 25, in his 24th year, Charles Grant, Esq. of Pimlico; whose early departure from this world (says a Correspondent) is deeply lamented by his relatives and numerous friends.—His heart was fraught with benevolence—his liberality knew no bounds.

On Monday, the 21st ultimo, after a short illness, Mr. J. Hitchins, of Millbank-street, Westminster.

On Monday se'nnight, George Doddridge, a labourer; he was removing some goods from his father's habitation, at Hillfarrance, near Taunton, to the house in which he was about to reside, when he was discovered lifeless, near the end of the garden, by the young woman to whom he was to have been married. His exertion is supposed to have ruptured a blood vessel—He was to have been married on Tuesday last, but (strange perversity of human prospects!) he was buried on that day.

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